## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

January 16, 2004 LR 3

SENATOR BEUTLER: In fact, I should...let me interrupt you because I want to give you, I think you deserve the credit for having had staff or somebody put together that outline of everything that applies and we should all be...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Actually, it was Frank Daley so we'll give Frank Daley credit, okay?

SENATOR BEUTLER: All right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: All right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Anyway, it was a very nice piece...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and I'm glad you saw fit to prepare that.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, what I'm getting at is we may not have perfect ethics laws in all instances. There may be room for improvement. There may be gaps. But by in large, we've got a pretty solid set of laws in place from disclosure, to limitations on gifts, to lobbying, you know, reporting, all kinds of things. If we presented this with the ethics part of it to the public and it passed that way, what would be the public's expectation? And would we not be...I mean, would we not be fooling them in a way? I mean, there probably are some things we could do, but I'm not sure that there's a huge amount to be done in this arena.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah. I don't think we'd be fooling them at all. I think what they would like to see, regardless of what conclusions they might come to, is an independent group that would take an independent view of what we do internally and how we behave and how that complex of laws which they cannot possibly understand, because there's a law over here in accountability, and there's another law over here that has nothing to do with accountability, and some of them are in our rules and some of them are not. I think just the act of an independent group looking at the Legislature from the outside